

WGCU
Fort Myers, FL
PBS Quarterly Program Topic Report
January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021

American History/Biography

Series Title: NOVA
Episode Title: Forgotten Genius
Length: 120 minutes
Airdate: 1/27/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 1:43:28

NOVA presents the remarkable life story of Percy Julian -- not only one of the great African-American scientists of the 20th century, but an industrialist, self-made millionaire, humanitarian and civil-rights pioneer. The grandson of Alabama slaves, Julian won worldwide acclaim for his research in chemistry and broke the color barrier in American science more than a decade before Jackie Robinson did so in baseball. He discovered a way to turn soybeans into synthetic steroids on an industrial scale, enabling drugs like cortisone to be widely available to millions. In a special two-hour presentation, NOVA traces the vivid and moving saga of Julian's dazzling scientific achievements and sometimes stormy personal life.

Series Title: American Experience
Episode Title: Voice of Freedom
Length: 120 minutes
Airdate: 2/15/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:43:28

Explore the fascinating life of celebrated singer Marian Anderson. In 1939, after being barred from performing at Constitution Hall because she was Black, she triumphed at the Lincoln Memorial in what became a landmark moment in American history.

Series Title: American Masters
Episode Title: Flannery
Length: 90 minutes
Airdate: 3/23/2021 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:30:00

Explore the life of Flannery O'Connor whose provocative fiction was unlike anything published before. Featuring never-before-seen archival footage, newly discovered journals and interviews with Mary Karr, Tommy Lee Jones, Hilton Als and more.

Culture

Series Title: PBS American Portrait
Episode Title: I Dream
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 1/5/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Other
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Self-shot stories explore the meaning and state of the American dream. From the desire for homeownership to ambitions for higher end or career success, they show the hard work, opportunities and barriers that come with pursuing this ideal today.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/5/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:38

After a week reaching yet another tragic milestone in the COVID-19 death toll, we remember five remarkable individuals in the United States who have lost their lives to the pandemic.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 174
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 3/1/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:33

One of the most prominent voices advocating for a national day of remembrance for those lost to COVID-19 is Kristin Urquiza. She co-founded the advocacy group, Marked By COVID, after she lost her father to the pandemic last year. She joins Jeffrey Brown from San Francisco to discuss why the nation needs the "time and space to mourn and grieve."

Environment/Nature/Natural Disasters

Series Title: NATURE
Episode Title: Squirrel's Guide to Success on Nature,A
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 1/7/2021 3:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:056:44

The squirrel family – from tiny chipmunks to big prairie dogs – is one of the most widespread on Earth. There are almost 300 species of squirrels that can glide through the air, outwit rattlesnakes, and survive the coldest temperatures of any mammal. What is the secret to their success? Uncover the extraordinary abilities of these cheeky nut lovers as a filmmaker puts their problem-solving to the test on a specially designed obstacle course.

Series Title: NATURE
Episode Title: Pumas: Legends of the Ice Mountains
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/3/2021 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Travel to the mountains of Chile to discover the secrets of the puma, the area's biggest and most elusive predator. Discover how this mountain lion survives and follow the dramatic fate of a puma mother and her cubs.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 3/11/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:08:24

Japan on Thursday marked another grim anniversary: 10 years since a magnitude 9.0 earthquake off the nation's coast triggered a 130-foot-high tsunami that crashed ashore at more than 500 miles per hour. It killed thousands and triggered a nuclear disaster at a plant in Fukushima. Nick Schiffrin looks at that nuclear explosion in detail, and Grace Lee reports from Tokyo on the quake's aftermath.

Family/Marriage

Series Title: Finding Your Roots
Episode Title: Breaking the Silences
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 1/5/2021 8:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Interview/Discussion/Review
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Henry Louis Gates, Jr. explores the family secrets of journalist Gayle King, film director Jordan Peele, and comedian Issa Rae, introducing them to ancestors who raise profound questions about the shape and meaning of their family trees.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/1/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:08:57

President Biden is expected to sign a series of executive orders this week on immigration, including one setting up a task force to reunite families separated at the Mexican border under former President Trump's "zero tolerance policy." Amna Nawaz reports on two mothers in Central America who have been waiting years to be reunited with their children.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 183
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 3/12/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:03:42

We are now into the second year of this global pandemic and since it began more than 530,000 Americans have died from COVID-19. As we do every week, we take a moment to share the lives of five extraordinary people lost to this virus.

Health/Healthcare

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 1/4/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:04:13

In our news wrap Monday, the United Kingdom imposed a new lockdown as the coronavirus variant spreads, Washington, D.C. activates National Guard ahead of expected protests against certifying President-elect Biden's win, a British judge refuses to send WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange to the U.S., and Iran says it has ramped up uranium enrichment as the country seizes a South Korean tanker.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/2/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:05:18

As concerns continue to grow about coronavirus variants in the U.S. and globally, the British authorities on Tuesday said they believe a version of the U.K. variant may stunt the effect of some vaccines. Paul Turner, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the Yale School of Medicine and a specialist on how genes mutate, joins Judy Woodruff to discuss the efficacy of vaccines.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Episode Title: Episode 175
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 3/2/2021 6:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:05:26

In our news wrap Tuesday, Texas lifted its COVID mask mandate and Gov. Greg Abbott ended limits on indoor dining at restaurants, President Biden pitched his \$1.9 trillion relief bill to Senate Democrats, the U.S. is imposing economic sanctions over Alexei Navalny's poisoning and jailing in Russia, and three female media workers in Afghanistan were shot dead in attacks.

Minorities/Civil Rights

Series Title: American Masters
Episode Title: How It Feels To Be Free
Length: 120 minutes
Airdate: 1/18/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:43:28

Explore the lives and trailblazing careers of iconic African American entertainers Lena Horne, Abbey Lincoln, Nina Simone, Diahann Carroll, Cicely Tyson and Pam Grier, who changed American culture through their films, fashion, music and politics.

Series Title: American Experience
Episode Title: Goin' Back to T-Town
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/8/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Even before the Civil War, African Americans, both slave and free, were settling in Oklahoma. By the turn of the century, the territory was dotted with all-black communities, but none as extraordinary as Greenwood, in Tulsa. Segregation kept blacks apart from white Tulsans, but black Greenwood thrived. Black residents built and supported two movie houses, two newspapers, 15 grocery and drug stores, 13 churches, and a number of restaurants, funeral parlors, clubs and hotels. In 1921, angry whites looted and burned Greenwood to the ground in one of the most vicious race riots the nation had ever seen. But tough, enterprising black citizens rebuilt a new Greenwood from the ashes, making it stronger and more alive than ever. By 1936, the neighborhood boasted the largest concentration of black business in the United States. But the Greenwood that fought its way back from racial violence of the 20s couldn't survive the progressive policies of integration and urban renewal of the 60s. In a nostalgic celebration of old-fashioned neighborhood life, the black residents of "T-Town" relive their community's remarkable rise and ultimate decline. Ossie Davis narrates.

Series Title: PBS NewsHour
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 3/4/2021 7:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: News (live news only)
Segment Length: 00:07:04

A string of brutal attacks on elderly Asian Americans has brought new attention to the rise of violence and harassment of Asian Americans. Since the pandemic began, more than 3,000 anti-Asian "hate incidents" have been reported in the U.S. according to the group, "Stop AAPI Hate." Asian American and Pacific Islander activist Helen Zia and Rise founder Amanda Nguyen join Amna Nawaz to discuss.

Science/Technology

Series Title: NOVA
Episode Title: Prediction by the Numbers
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 1/7/2021 4:00:00 PM
Service: PBS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Discover how predictions underpin nearly every aspect of our lives and why some succeed spectacularly while others fail. Explore entertaining real-world challenges and join experts as they tackle that age-old question: Can we forecast the future?

Series Title: Beyond the Elements on NOVA
Episode Title: Reactions
Length: 60 minutes
Airdate: 2/3/2021 9:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Demonstration/Instructional
Segment Length: 00:56:44

Discover the chemical reactions that constantly transform our world. Like one that enables us to feed billions but when reversed, is explosive. And lock-and-key molecules that put the heat in hot peppers or make deadly venoms useful to medicine.

Series Title: Independent Lens
Episode Title: Coded Bias
Length: 90 minutes
Airdate: 3/22/2021 10:00:00 PM
Service: PBS-NPS
Format: Documentary
Segment Length: 01:30:00

When MIT Media Lab researcher Joy Buolamwini discovers most facial recognition does not see dark-skinned faces or women with accuracy, she joins the fight to expose the threats to civil liberties posed by an increasingly data-driven, automated world.